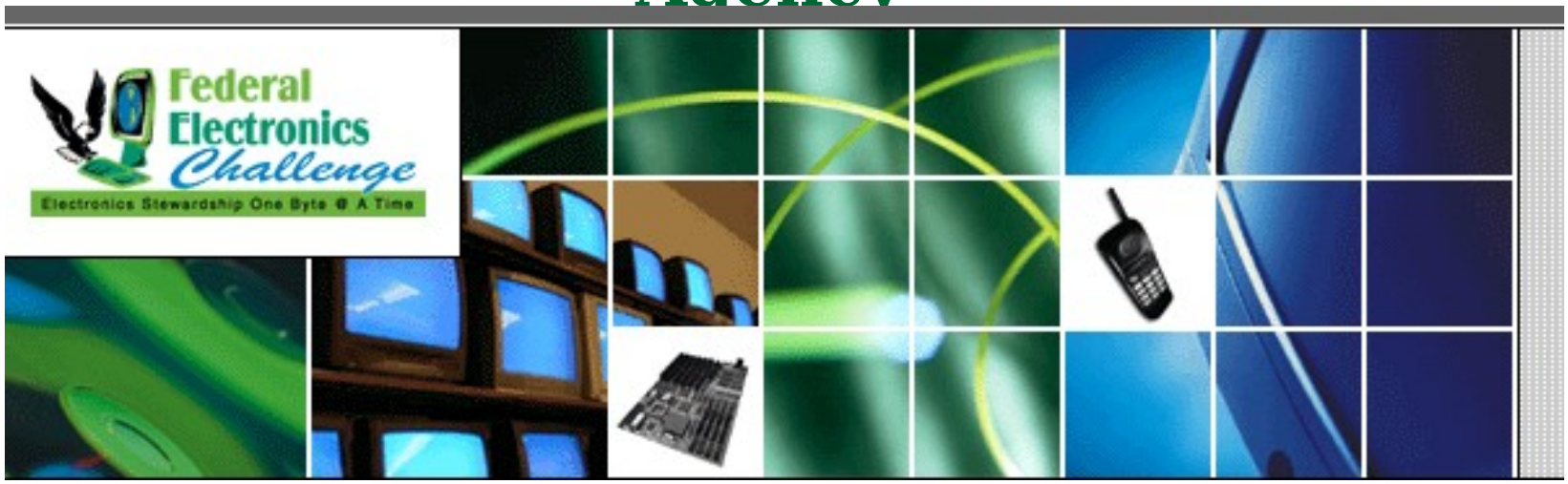
Federal Electronics Challenge

Laura Nazef, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Today's topics

- Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) Overview
- Role of Acquisition & Procurement in the FEC
- Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)

Federal Electronics Challenge

Electronics Stewardship One Byte @ A Time

What is the Federal Electronics Challenge?

- The FEC is a purchasing, use, and end-of-life management challenge issued for Federal facilities or agencies to:
  - Purchase greener electronic products
  - Manage electronic assets in an environmentally sound manner
  - Receive assistance and network with other agencies to improve current practices

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Why are we focusing on electronics?

There is no cohesive management system in place in the Federal government to *improve* the life cycle management practices of electronic equipment and enhance the growth of the infrastructure for the reuse and recycling of obsolete electronics

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Memorandum of Understanding

- Signed on Nov 15, 2004
- Eleven Federal Agencies and EOP
- Approx. 80% of the annual IT Federal budget
- Potential to influence marketplace towards more environmentally sound electronic products & services
- Foundation to improve quality, performance, and environmental management of Federal electronic assets throughout their life cycle

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN

The Executive Office of the President
Department of Agriculture
Department of Defense
Department of Energy
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Homeland Security
Department of the Interior
Department of Justice
Department of Transportation
Department of Veterans Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
General Services Administration

TITLE: Promoting Sustainable Environmental Stewardship[1] of Federal Electronic Assets

PURPOSE: The Executive Office of the President, Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of the Interior, Department of Justice, Department of Transportation, Department of Veterans Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency, and General Services Administration (the Parties), wish to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop and promote common strategies for using environmentally sustainable technologies and practices to improve the quality, performance, and environmental management of Federal electronic assets throughout their life cycle. Electronic assets covered by this MOU include, but are not limited to, equipment used in communications, information systems, military, and scientific applications. The Parties define the life cycle of electronic equipment broadly to include acquisition, design, manufacture, assembly, distribution, use, reuse, demanufacture, and recycling. The Parties also intend to capitalize on other applicable efforts, including work already underway by the Federal Electronic Challenge (FEC).

BACKGROUND: Electronic waste encompasses a broad and growing range of electronic devices ranging from televisions and cellular phones, VCR and DVD players, to personal computers. Currently, electronic waste makes up approximately five percent of the U.S. municipal solid waste stream, and is the fastest growing category of the municipal solid waste stream.

Overview of FEC Program

- Voluntary program focused on education and recognition
- Flexible (lots of choices within parameters)
- Valuable network
- Individual facility determines its:
  - Level of commitment
  - Goal(s)
  - Life cycle phase(s) on which to focus

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Opportunities

As a Partner a Facility Can...

- Show leadership
- Reduce liability
- Save money
- Protect the environment

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Strategic Goals

Integration of life cycle phases with higher partnership levels:

- Acquisition & Procurement,
- Operations & Maintenance,
- End-of-Life Management

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Environmental Goals

- Reduce life-cycle impacts of electronic equipment through environmentally preferable purchasing.
- Conserve and protect resources by increasing materials use efficiency and the recovery infrastructure of electronic equipment.
- Reduce the volume and toxicity of electronic equipment waste through environmentally preferable end-of-life management.

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Core focus of FEC = BMPs

- **How did the FEC Steering Committee develop best management practices?**
  - Working directly with federal procurement officials, property managers, and information technology (IT) staff
- BMPs outlined in Tools section of FEC web site:
  - fact sheets, case studies, checklists, sample contract/procurement language, presentations, Q & A's
- http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net

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Becoming an FEC Partner

- Register
- Complete Baseline Survey
- Develop goals
- Initiate activities
- Report progress
- Apply for recognition

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Focus on recognition

Recognition for all participating facilities

- Partner
- Bronze
- Silver
- Gold

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CLOSING THE CIRCLE

Office of the Federal Environmental Executive

Fall 2004
Issue 35

Closing the Circle News

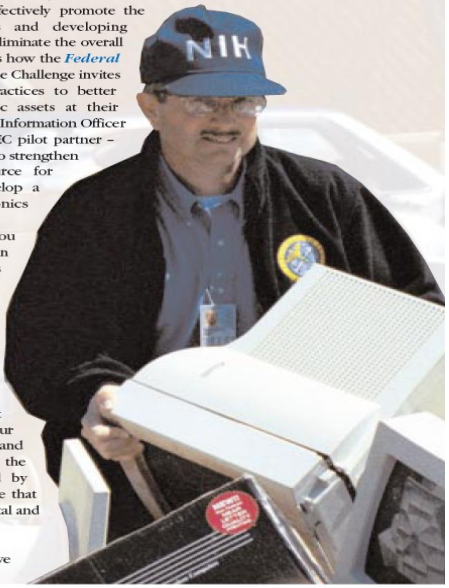
Special Issue: Electronics Stewardship

The Federal government has always been a strong advocate of sustainable environmental stewardship in its mission of safeguarding the welfare of all its citizens. This is especially the case when new environmental challenges surface, such as the management of our electronic assets.

The Federal government is the largest block purchaser of electronics in the world. The IT budget for FY 2003 alone was $54.2 billion. The majority of the 1.8 million employees in the Federal government have a personal computer; therefore, given an average three-year life cycle, the government discards approximately 10,000 computers each week.

In addition to the volume of waste generated, the volume of hazardous chemicals associated with the electronics waste is also an issue.

But the environmental issues relating to electronics go beyond how we dispose of them; they also include how we use them, and even how they are made. Hence, a little over three years ago, we started looking at how to effectively promote the purchase of greener electronic products and developing management systems that will help reduce or eliminate the overall environmental impact of these products. This is how the *Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC)* was created. The Challenge invites all Federal agencies to begin promoting practices to better purchase, manage and dispose of electronic assets at their installations and facilities. Brian Furusama, Chief Information Officer for the Bonneville Power Administration - a FEC pilot partner – agrees that the FEC has "provided the structure to strengthen communications and served as the resource for employee awareness and education to develop a common understanding about electronics stewardship."



In this issue of *Closing the Circle News*, you will learn about the Challenge, how you can become a partner, and how you can help us implement greener, more effective, and efficient electronics life cycle practices across the Federal government. You will also read about the successes of our pilot partner agencies and the upcoming White House Federal Electronics Stewardship Summit on October 21.

We believe that each Federal employee has the opportunity to make a significant contribution to promote the management of our electronic assets in an environmentally sound and energy efficient manner. By participating in the Federal Electronics Challenge, we can lead by example and collectively make a big difference that will gain long term benefits for our environmental and natural resource conservation efforts.

Edwin Piñero, Federal Environmental Executive

At a glance: FEC Requirements

BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
✓Complete Survey	✓Complete Survey	✓Complete Survey
✓Set Goals	✓Set Goals	✓Set Goals
•Select 1 of 3 LC Phases	✓Select 2 of 3 LC Phases	✓Integrate 3 LC Phases:
•Procurement	•Procurement	•Procurement
•Use	•Use	•Use
•End-of-life	•End-of-life	•End-of-life
✓Complete mandatory items in chosen LC phase	✓Complete mandatory items in 2 chosen LC phases	✓Complete mandatory items in all 3 LC phases
✓Choose and implement 2 optional items	✓Choose and implement 3 optional items	✓Choose and implement 4 optional items
✓Report progress	✓Report progress	✓Report progress
		✓Mentor 2 others

Sample FEC Activities: Acquisition & Procurement Phase

- Complete the Acquisition Planning and Procurement Checklist
- Consider and include at least three identified environmental attributes in purchasing specifications
- Ensure that at least 50 percent of all monitors (CRTs and LCDs) purchased are ENERGY STAR® compliant
- Require vendors to complete the Product Environmental Information Sheet
- Use the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) when finalized

Acquisition Planning & Procurement Checklist

- Outlines questions to consider throughout acquisition & procurement process to assist with purchase of environmentally preferable products & services
- Process phases covered:
  - Needs assessment
  - Information gathering/market survey
  - Outreach to requirement offices
  - Establishing evaluation criteria

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Examples of environmental attributes

- Design Impacts
  - Reduced toxic constituents
  - Increased recycled content
  - Design for recycling
  - Reduced materials use
- Use Impacts
  - Promote energy conservation
  - Extend product life
  - Packaging
- End of Life Impacts
  - Promote take back options
  - Environmentally sound recycling

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Purchasing ENERGY STAR® compliant equipment

- Roughly 100 million office computers and monitors use more than 1% of the nation's electricity
- More than half of this electricity is wasted
- Easy Money: A $10 to $100 annual cost savings opportunity may be sitting on nearly every desk in your organization
- ENERGY STAR® equipment uses power management features to save energy

Product Environmental Information Sheet

- Standardized tool for collecting information from vendors on product environmental attributes
- Covers the following product information categories:
  - Environmental Certifications & Qualifications
  - Energy Conservation & Product Use
  - Environmentally Sensitive Substances
  - Materials Selection
  - Packaging
  - Design for End of Life
  - Product Upgradeability
  - Take Back and Recycling Services
  - Corporate Environmental Information

Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool

- Environmental procurement tool designed to help institutional purchasers evaluate, compare, and select desktop computers, laptops, and monitors based on their environmental attributes.
  - Set of voluntary environmental performance criteria
  - System for identifying and verifying products which meet this criteria

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EPEAT – Basic Features

- Voluntary participation
- Market recognition for qualified products
- Life cycle environmental attributes
- Easy to use tool for purchasers
- Builds on US & international requirements and standards
  - E.g., Energy Star®, RoHS, IT Eco-Declaration
- Self declaration with spot verification
- Minimal delay in time to market
- Credible, verifiable outcomes
- Scaleable to other products

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Why EPEAT?

- Promote product design changes that reduce environmental and health impact of electronics throughout the life cycle
- Growing demand by institutional purchasers for easy to use tool to compare and select “green” products
- Manufacturers’ need for clear and consistent procurement criteria to drive design change

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EPEAT Development Team Participants

- Institutional Purchasers
- Manufacturers
- Trade Associations
- Non-Profit &Advocacy Organizations
- Government
- Recyclers
- Academia

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EPEAT Environmental Performance Categories

- Environmentally Sensitive Materials
- Materials Selection
- Design for End of Life
- Product Longevity/Life Cycle Extension
- Energy Conservation
- End of Life Management
- Corporate Performance
- Packaging

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EPEAT Award Structure

Three tiers of environmental performance – **Bronze**, **Silver** and **Gold**

Bronze: 22 mandatory criteria in 8 performance categories

Silver: All mandatory criteria plus at least 16 optional

Gold: All mandatory criteria plus at least 25 optional criteria

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EPEAT System – How it Will Work

- **Manufacturer**
  - Signs MOU with EPEAT
  - Completes annual report on corporate performance and end-of-life management criteria
  - Evaluates and self-declares products against criteria
  - Submits data on web-based system, which calculates award level
- **EPEAT Organization**
  - Random after market spot checks
  - Request for documentation to verify claims
  - Periodic review and update criteria

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EPEAT Implementation Status

- Finalizing EPEAT Criteria into an IEEE American National Standard (Spring 2006)
- Creating System for Product Identification,Verification by:
  - Selecting Host Organization (Oct 2005)
  - Promoting EPEAT in the manufacturing and purchasing communities
  - Developing web-based interface for product qualification
- Launch expected early 2006

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Interim Use of EPEAT

- Recommended that purchasers wait until launch
- Interim guidance for purchasers who need to use before launch:
  - Apply only to desktops, monitors and laptops
  - Use mandatory criteria only (i.e., bronze level)
  - Realize that products might not be available yet
  - Include option of specifying EPEAT qualified products when products become available
  - Do not add criteria or adjust criteria values and call them EPEAT

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Draft Contract Language

- “During the term of the contract, [Agency/Department] reserves the right to purchase exclusively or otherwise provide preference for specific models of desktop computers, notebooks and monitors qualified through the Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) or its successor.”
- DOI RFP: http://www.blm.gov/natacq/IT/
- DOI Contact: Catherine Cesnik Courtney Catherine_cesnik@ios.doi.gov; (650) 329-5186

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Status of Tools & Opportunities for Purchaser Involvement

- Draft EPEAT Criteria: on www.epeat.net, under "overview", "documents", "EPEAT full criteria"
- Draft Database of EPEAT qualified products: URL (http://ripley.dnamerican.com/epeat/)
  - Join Federal Electronics Challenge MOU Workgroup Procurement Subgroup
  - Help beta test the EPEAT Database
  - Provide comment on final draft standard during public comment period/balloting stage
  - Tell vendors you are interested in buying EPEAT products
  - Add EPEAT mention into your IT contracts

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Benefits of EPEAT

- **For Institutional Purchasers**
  - Easy way to specify, evaluate and purchase computer products that meet challenging yet realistic environmental criteria
  - An efficient and credible means of verifying that equipment meets criteria
  - Flexibility of selecting products that meet minimum performance criteria or giving preference to products that qualify for higher performance levels
  - Same set of criteria used by purchasers nationwide to ensure competitive pricing and product availability

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Benefits of EPEAT

- **For Manufacturers**
  - One clear set of performance criteria
  - Market advantage for environmentally preferable products
  - Flexibility on how to meet higher levels of EPEAT qualification
  - Low cost, user-friendly system that will not delay getting products to market
- **For Environmental Stakeholders**
  - Credible assessment of electronic products based on agreed upon criteria
  - System that promotes continuous improvement of electronic products throughout life cycle

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For More Information on EPEAT

- Website: www.epeat.net
- EPA Leads:
  - **Holly Elwood** (US EPA HQ)
    202-564-8854, elwood.holly@epa.gov
  - **John Katz**, (US EPA Region 9)
    415-972-3283, katz.john@epa.gov
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- Grantee Contact:
  - **Larry Chalfan**, Zero Waste Alliance, 503-279-9383

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For More Information on the FEC

- http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net
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